

# The Times.

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1908.

## WE MUST KEEP COOL.

In the present state of strained relations between this country and Spain it is, of course, a very difficult matter to get the whole body of the American people to consider the destruction of our war ship with that calmness and just judgment which is absolutely essential to all wise action in difficult circumstances. Men will reason that all the conditions were just such as to justify the expectation of something like this. They will argue that all the Spanish people are deeply offended at the course this country has taken respecting the Cuban matter, that they look upon the Maine's presence in the harbor of Havana as an insult and a menace to their country, that they had just their pride seriously humiliated by the De Lome incident, and that they were in just that frame of mind which would naturally lead an unscrupulous people like the Americans to the perpetration of the awful deed. It is a natural tendency of the human mind to drift towards this course of reasoning. Nevertheless we are not to lose our heads and run off into inconsiderate action that our cool judgment will make us ashamed of, because the case has many circumstances raising a strong suspicion against Spain. Suspicion amounts to nothing in the way of proof. Evidence tending to a conclusion must be produced before judgment can be formed.

As we said yesterday a Spaniard may have blown the Maine up, and yet it might not be a case in which we could hold Spain responsible. Spain would only be responsible in such a case if she knew of or connived in some way at the deed. If a Spaniard blew her up upon his own motion only and without any inspiration of any sort whatever from the Spanish Government the case would not differ in any degree whatever from any other case in which the citizen of a country violated its criminal laws and committed a crime. We would have a right to expect in such a case that Spain would use all her power in apprehending the criminal and bringing him to justice, but if she did that she would have done all that her obligations to another power called upon her to do.

We must look at this case precisely as we would look at it if it had happened in the harbor of any other friendly power. If, for instance, it had happened in the harbor of Cronstadt, and the Russian Government had made every effort to apprehend the criminal and punish him, we should have felt that all the exigencies of the case had been met, and that we had no complaint whatever to make of Russia.

Now, the case is not changed in the least because the great body of the Spanish people are in a state of exasperation against the American people or because the great body of the American people are similarly influenced towards Spaniards. The two Governments are in a state of amity and friendship, and that requires that we shall treat the Spanish Government exactly as we would treat the Russian Government in a similar case, so long as that state of amity continues. The case is one that calls for calm and deliberate judgment, and we must see to it that we do not rush off and do something hasty and rash that we shall be ashamed of when the excitement has passed away.

The occurrence is certainly a very remarkable one, and we find ourselves, on the evidence so far furnished, utterly unable to form any satisfactory conjecture even as to how it occurred. But as we think of the inspiration of Spaniards and the Spanish Government, we find it impossible to believe that Spain's Government would have resorted to a hasty scheme of this sort to do us a petty injury. Spain could not possibly derive any advantage from it, for, if we must fight her, one battleship the more or the less could not possibly have a decisive influence upon the war. To do such a thing would only degrade her therefore in the eyes of the whole civilized

world and would not bring her any compensating advantages whatever. She may have instigated the act, of course, but we find it very difficult to bring our mind to the conclusion that she did.

Meanwhile the telegrams from General Lee and Captain Sigbee indicate very plainly that they are disposed to think the disaster was an accident. They are upon the ground, and they must know much more than we can, and we consequently advise all of our people to keep cool and wait for all the facts before they determine what we should do.

## THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

We have watched with keen interest the editorial columns of our free press contemporaries to see how they liked the proposition of Chairman Jones, Chairman Butler, and Chairman Towne to ignore all other questions and to make common sense against the gold standard. But thus far we have seen nothing commendatory of the scheme and we do not believe that it will be popular, except with extreme partisans and Democrats of Populist tendency.

"We ask no man to abandon his party or to change his politics," says Chairman Jones. "We ask no one to yield any principle; but in this great contest we do appeal to all good men to stand solidly together for liberty and humanity, and strike down forever this conspiracy for gold and monopoly."

We can hardly believe that Chairman Jones foresaw a possible effect of this appeal. He could not have given those Democrats who supported McKinley in the last presidential election a better excuse for again affiliating with the Republicans in the coming contest. He distinctly declares that there is to be but one issue and that Republicans and Populists may vote conscientiously with the silver Democrats without surrendering any political principle. And in so doing he necessarily argues per contra that Democrats may conscientiously vote with the Republican party in opposition without surrendering aught of their political principles.

It was argued in the last campaign that Democrats who were opposed to free coinage should yet vote for the Chicago ticket because Democracy stood for much more than free coinage and that the many other considerations should outweigh a Democrat's objection to a single plank in the platform. But if Chairman Jones is to be taken at his word, all other considerations are now to be laid aside and the one single issue is to be "opposition to gold and monopoly."

This, we say, is emphasized by the assertion that Populists and Republicans may give their support to the movement without reference to their position on other great political questions.

In that view of the case how can a Democrat who is opposed to free coinage join in this movement? The argument of "other considerations" now falls to the ground. There are no "other considerations," and the man who joins the triple alliance of Jones, Butler and Towne will commit himself to the free coinage of silver, to the opposition to the gold standard, and to nothing else.

But suppose the triple alliance shall win, what is to be the result? Will the Populists and silver Republicans be content to yield everything to the Democrats? Senator Morgan thinks not and has publicly expressed himself as being opposed to amalgamation. He thinks that the best thing that the Democratic party could do is to abide by its principles and to depend upon them for success. "Temporary success," he says, "cannot be gained by fusion, and such success would not compensate the party for what it would lose by going into a fusion movement with other and less important political organizations."

It would have to make sacrifices if it entered into such a movement and to the extent to which it would make concessions it would lose the respect of its people.

We cannot believe that the fusion movement will be popular with the great body of Democrats and we look for more protests yet, similar to that of Senator Morgan.

## "COALS OF FIRE."

A cablegram from the New York World says that the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs will draw up a reply to the note presented by Minister Woodford in connection with the DeLome letter, and adds that it is understood that the Spanish notes will express surprise at the United States government for having expected any explanations concerning a private letter of its late representative.

That, it will be remembered, is the view expressed by The Times as soon as the letter appeared, and it seems to us that the Administration would have done better had it taken the same view.

Minister DeLome had written a private letter to a friend and never dreamed that it would be made public. It was in no sense an official utterance, and we have yet to see a sufficient reason for the Administration to have taken cognizance of it.

## NO STEP BACKWARD.

The Petersburg Index-appeal says: The Common Council of Richmond is getting down to business in a businesslike way. The floating indebtedness of the city has been reduced nearly \$200,000 in two years. This is the sure way to stabilize the city's credit and ultimately to reduce the burden of taxation.

protrusions fairly within the city's revenue. That pledge has been faithfully adhered to, and instead of running into debt, as for so long a time had been the rule, the indebtedness of the city has been cut down.

The members of the reform movement may well go before the community on the record that they have made, and we cannot but believe that they will be vindicated and sustained at the polls.

The work of reform has just begun, and there must be no step backward.

## CANDIDLY SAID.

The Landmark has never been reluctant to set forth fully its reasons for advocating a constitutional convention. We advocate it in order to give Virginia an economical and modern system of State government, in the first place. We advocate it, in the second place, in order that Virginia shall have a safe and fair election law. There is no evasion about this statement, and we have made it a number of times before.—Northfolk Landmark.

That is a frank statement of our contemporary's position, and fairly represents the sentiments of those who are in favor of a constitutional convention, although we incline to the belief that with most of the convention's advocates, the Landmark's proposition should be reversed.

We believe that the suffrage question is of first consideration and that "economy" is secondary. If the convention shall assemble, there is no sort of doubt that a large number of white men in this State would be disfranchised and to that we are opposed.

The Ohio Republican League, after its Lincoln day banquet, adopted resolutions eulogizing President McKinley. Senators Hanna and Foraker and Governor Dushnell. The last named was characterized as "our beloved level-headed and efficient Governor." While the League was feeling so good and forgiving it was very unkind to omit Mr. Kurtz from the general amnesty.

American manhood is undaunted by deadly disasters. The gaps in the naval forces due to the Havana horror will be filled by willing recruits more readily than in time of peace.

Major Paty du Clam still refuses to talk, but there is sufficient evidence to suspect that he is of the Little Neck variety.

The doctors, of course, all agreed that the petrified man who has just been buried in Colorado was stone dead.

A New York paper contains an advertisement which says: "Dearest on earth, Heaven only knows how my heart screams for you." That tumultuous breast is evidently not sheltered in a modern flat.

Promoter Grabbe is asking the Chemical Bank for another chance, but the bank seems to want one itself this time.

The Washington Post, in speaking of the latest Gotham murder, asks: "Has New York tired of the Guldenstrom?" She doubtless prefers the Seely dinner.

The Prince of Wales keeps \$75,000 worth of uniforms on hand. He must be on some Governor's staff.

Senor Polo Hornabe will succeed De Lome. He'll be eddy. The polo game is nothing new here.

There are now 51,000 breweries in the world—and they brew as much trouble as they do beer.

An epidemic of grip has broken out in Paris, but Zola apparently hasn't got it.

It is understood that the colonels are all ready for a show now at any time the Governor needs his staff.

Zola seems to have taken a new tack to become one of the immortals.

The Indian football team made \$7,000 for Carlisle College last season. This looks like a complete solution of the Indian question.

The Boundary Commission of Maryland and Virginia will meet here to-night. They ought to have no trouble, yet neither of these Legislatures has been drawing the line at anything this session.

The printer was unfortunate who got out the wedding cards reading: "Mr. and Mrs. — request your presents."

A New York man lost \$2,000 in ten minutes at a Philadelphia faro bank. That's not so slow for the Quaker City.

There were three responses to the Governor's suggestion of a commission in the House, but none of them have passed yet.

Another slab, inscribed "Senatorial Primacy," is being polished off for the legislative graveyard.

The explosion on the Maine broke the windows in Havana. But wait until the report of that investigation is sounded.

## Sufficient Evidence.

Loaded—"Was he very drunk?" "Was he drunk? He was paying \$4 a bottle for victory and thought it was champagne."—New York Evening Journal.

## Hasty.

First Friend—So he married in haste! Did he repent at leisure? Second Friend—No; he repented in haste, too.—Tit-Bits.

## Content.

"There's no place like comb," remarked the bee as he entered the hive and proceeded to bank his honey where it would do the most good.—New York Press.

## Family Troubles.

"We gave up having a coat of arms." "Why?" "My husband said my griffin wouldn't look well dragging his ancestral mill wagon."—Chicago Record.

## Far Off.

"I see that New York society women claim to be descended from kings." "Yes; but they have taken good care to select kings that are very, very dead."—Chicago Daily News.

## Talk a Pretty.

"Don't you think if Robinson Crusoe had been a married man he would have been a great deal lonelier?" "Oh, I don't know. He had a parrot, you remember."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Spirit of Chance.

First Suburbanite (utterly)—I'm blest if I think the average cool will ever get to heaven.

Second Suburbanite—Don't know; but it's very questionable whether she'll be

willing to stay after she does get there.—Puck.

## The Bar.

Sufferer Shut-up—I hear that at last you have married your childhood sweetheart. And anything come between you in the old days?

Griffin Barrett—Yes; my first wife.—New York Press.

## Thriving Monopoly.

Monopoly—I hear your friend Killum is making money in the coal country town. Joak—Yes; he has the townspeople dead to rights, if they get the least thing the matter with them. He's the only physician, druggist, and undertaker in the place.—Philadelphia Record.

## Profitless Life.

The miser lives in constant strife, Devoid of joys and pleasures rife, Trying as long as he has life, To get the earth.

When death finally ends his task, His relatives take off the mask Of friendship, and simply ask, "What is he worth?"—Chicago News.

## Opportunity.

"Master of human destinies am I! Fame, ome and fortune on my footsteps wait.

Cities and fields I wake; I penetrate Deserts and seas remote, and passing by Hovel and mart and palace—soon or late I knock unbidden once at every gate! If sleeping, wake—if feasting, rise before I turn away. It is the hour of fate, And they who follow me reach every state.

Moving desire, and conquer every foe, Sardonic; but those who doubt or hesitate, Condemned to failure, penury and woe, Seek me in vain and uselessly implore, I answer not, and return no more!"—John J. Ingalls.

## AFTERMATH.

Colonel George E. Tillman, brother of Senator Tillman, has formally announced himself as candidate for the nomination of Governor for the State of South Carolina.

A special from Barnwell, S. C., announces the death of "Old Morris," the sexton of the Presbyterian church, who had held his position for fifty years.

An interesting decision has recently been rendered in Colorado, in effect that the city of Leadville is entitled to all the mineral underlying its streets and alleys. As the great Leadville ore belt extends under the city the decision means that the city will be entitled to royalty for ore mined from beneath its ground which will be worth a large sum of money to the municipality.

Madam Sara Bernhardt has recently undergone a surgical operation which was a complete success, and the actress will be able to resume work in April.

The committee of the South Carolina Legislature investigating the connection of members with dispensary free liquor has obtained from the Board of Control an admission that liquors had been sent to legislators in quantities. One of the board said that he had given bottles of liquor to thirty of the senators, but refused to mention the recipients.

The report of the State Labor Commissioner of North Carolina shows these figures as to the State's fisheries: There were caught in the eastern waters during 1897 142,360,000 fish, valued at \$1,587,000; 78,000 bushels of clams, worth \$2,000; 38,000 turkeys and turkeys, valued at \$10,000; shrimp and crabs, \$5,000; oysters, \$100,000; catfish, \$5,000. There were employed 12,000 persons and 3,800 vessels and boats. Of gill nets 124,000 were used.

Edna Williams, of Shelby, N. C., sixteen years old, was shot dead by Sidney Grigg, seventeen years old, because she refused to marry him. He then killed himself. The bodies of the dead girl and her murderer were found lying in the road together.

Mayor Van Wyck has announced a committee of 225 to arrange for the celebration of Greater New York next May. Among the number are all the living ex-mayors, besides such distinguished men as Archbishop Corrigan, Bishops Potter, Littlejohn and McDonnell, Senator Platt, Richard Croker, Hugh McLaughlin, ex-Governor Morton, ex-Secretary Whitney, Elihu Root, John Jacob Astor and C. P. Huntington.

A case of leprosy in its worst form has been discovered in London. No hospital or home for incurables will take the patient in, and no means of isolating him from contact with other persons have yet been found.

## Retrenchment Suggestions.

Editor of The Times: Sir—Please allow a suggestion in connection with the retrenchment matter, which, I think will save something to the public treasury.

There is no necessity for summoning more than twelve jurors "remote, etc." in felony cases. About nine times in ten, in my experience, twelve will do. Let the judge summon, as he may think best, men free from exception. And at the suggestion of counsel a larger number may be had.

I have noticed particularly to see how many, and in the last two years remember only two jurors in these courts who had "made up or expressed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused." So I don't see the use of having sixteen summoned with added cost of mileage and attendance.

Again limit the time of confinement of persons convicted of misdemeanor. It looks as if the matter of feeding prisoners in jail was very much ignored by the justice of the peace, especially in the cities, and the limit ought to be considerably lower.

I am emboldened to make these suggestions by the fact that others made by me some years ago in the same connection with the Senate and the Supreme Court, and with nominal success.

The Senate plan to abolish the Circuit and County Courts, and substitute twenty-seven or thirty district courts or more, with chancery common law and crime jurisdiction, with appeal directly to the Supreme Court would make it necessary to have another Court of Appeals.

To carry these thirty district courts would cost the State \$50,000 annually, and the work would not be as well, or as expeditiously done.

Under the present system we have the judge divided, and so he has a way as to make it most efficient for the public service.

The county judge is at the spot, so to speak, to hear applications for bail and release prisoners who ought not to stay in jail before trial at public expense. If a case is not ready for trial he can continue to stay in term, while the dis-

trict judge would have to move on, leaving it for a future term.

Based on a county judge has a great many things to do which no judge at a distance can so well do. That the work of these judges has been well and promptly done. See the 1,800 convicts in the penitentiary. And appeals from their rulings are hardly ever heard of.

In doing the work they are confronted with an expensive jury system. Then give them discretion in the matter of procuring jurors, and stop the long term confinements in jail, which are often no punishments at all, of convicts for misdemeanor.

## ISAAC H. CHRISTIAN.

Willcox Wharf, Va., Feb. 17, 1908.

The James River H. rrisons are Not Descended From the Regicide.

Editor of The Times:

Sir—The following from an editorial in your issue of the 15th instant, entitled "The Regicide's Descendants," is inexcusable in a journal usually so accurate as The Times:

"Mr. Harrison is not descended from the cavaliers in the strict sense of the word, since he is a Scotchman. Mr. Harrison, was one of the judges who sentenced King Charles, chief of the cavaliers, to death. But the descendants of the regicide have consorted with the cavaliers for so long a time that they have considered themselves as taken into their ranks, and all the other Harrisons of whom we have knowledge are essentially cavaliers by blood and by name, and are very proud of it, too. Mr. Harrison is, therefore, verging close upon the character of the bad bird when he sneers at the cavaliers, and he is not so much getting much sympathy for it even from the round-heads that he hopes to conciliate."

The James river Harrisons are not descendants of the regicide, as are not the least acquainted with the history of the family is ever guilty of making this gross mistake. It is true ex-President Harrison himself gave greater currency to this even when in a sketch of his life published in The Post shortly after he came to Washington as a United States senator, he was said to be a descendant from the regicide and in a subsequent issue this was corrected. Yet Mr. Harrison is not a descendant of the regicide, as are not the least acquainted with the history of the family is ever guilty of making this gross mistake.

Clarksville, Va., Feb. 15, 1908.

trade no less than in the professions, the need of education is being a fact, and that our people realize. The days of ignorance and superstition are giving way to the brighter days of knowledge, which the Greek aphorism says "a boy's education is his life." The education of the people will prove a panacea for all our ills of course no sensible person will contend for; but that it is far preferable to ignorance among our people is too patent to need argument to know. The acquisitions of knowledge without moral and religious restraints of course instead of being a blessing will prove to be a curse to any people. This is a reality, and the great general education diffused among our people both white and black with the moral and religious restraints that they have in Virginia and the South is bound to be of untold benefit to all.

The right kind of education will go a long way to solve the negro problem, as well as aid to correct the many wrongs of the ballot box system and correct many other evils that our legislators are grappling with, and with at least untold indications of success. Education in temperance is the best antidote and preventive to intemperance, the giant evil from which our entire country is suffering to-day. Our young people must be taught the evils of intemperance, strong drink and the great benefits of a temperate life. They must be taught that lawlessness of conduct, that dishonesty in any shape and falsehood in any color are not only wrong in a nature but that such if pursued will be subversive of government and will overturn the whole fabric of society. Of course our religious schools teach these and go further in recommending the Christian life to their pupils, but our secular schools can and should go a long way along this line nor will they invade the ground of church schools either in the matter. Of course, the whole matter of educating our people will not be relegated to the schools, but our papers and periodicals as well as other agencies must lend a strong hand in the work. The Times surely deserves the thanks of our people for its brave, independent stand for honesty and truth and justice. Believing that in education our people will not largely a panacea for many evils that afflict our land, I feel moved to write these views.

Clarksville, Va., Feb. 15, 1908.

The Origin of "Morse Chan."

"Is there any story connected with the writing of 'Morse Chan,' Mr. Page?" asked Frank G. Carpenter recently of Thomas Nelson Page, the novelist. "Yes," the author replied, "I started in my mind from an old letter which a friend of mine showed me. This letter was from an illiterate girl in Georgia to her soldier sweetheart. The letter was poorly written and poorly spelled, but full of pathos. The girl had, it seemed, tried for the war she had realized her great love for him and written. She wrote: 'I know I have treated you mean, I life, and I loved you all the time. When you asked me to marry you, I laughed and I wouldn't have you, and it makes me cry to think you are gone away to the war. Now, I want you to know I love you, and I want you to get a letter, and I will come home and I'll marry you.' A few words of affection the letter closed, but a postscript below was added: 'Don't come without a furrow, unless you come home with me, I won't marry you.' This letter was received by the soldier only a few days before the battle of Gettysburg. The soldier was shot, and it was found in his breast pocket just over his heart. The pathos of it struck me so forcibly that out of it came the story, 'Morse Chan.'"

When did you write 'Morse Chan,' I asked. "Not for some time after 'Morse Chan' was written," he replied. "The law, you know, is a very jealous mistress, and all of my energy was going in my practice. Such a case as this did not occur to me until during the evening, and for a time I stopped writing entirely, and for a few days the work would interfere with my studies. I was kept for several years by Scribner's before it was published. It had been paid for, and I wrote the editor asking why they did not publish it. Shortly after that I received the proof, and the story appeared. I was married in 1886, and 'Morse Chan' was written a short time after that. I then wrote other stories and have been writing more or less from that time to this."—Washington Post.

Dogs' Carcasses C used Death.

It appears from the history of Ellen Case, the nineteen-year-old Swedish girl who died in Roosevelt Hospital on Monday, that she was a person afflicted with hydrophobia without being bitten by a dog. The autopsy upon the girl's body, made yesterday by the coroner, Dr. Hamilton Williams, revealed the fact that her death was caused by hydrophobia, although so far as was known she had never been bitten by a dog.

The girl was employed as a servant by a family at Congers, N. Y. She was taken to the hospital on Monday morning, apparently suffering with a violent attack of rabies, and it was at first supposed that she had been bitten by a dog. She seemed to be struggling and suffering, and had the hallucinations usual in such cases. When water was given her she refused to drink, and without difficulty and expressed a wish for more. Her death was attributed to hydrophobia by the coroner.

In order to confirm the diagnosis of hydrophobia the autopsy was held. So far as an examination of this nature could determine the diagnosis was correct, but parts of the intestines were preserved and will be submitted to microscopic examination.

The history of the girl's case was gone into most carefully, and it was learned that in the house where she was kept, a dog named "Morse Chan" had been kept for some time. The dog was a small, black, and white, and was kept in the house. The dog was a small, black, and white, and was kept in the house.

The first Union Literary meeting of the Epworth League of Richmond and Manassas will be held March 1st at the Epworth church and bids fair to be one of rare interest. The leaguers are taking much interest in this initial service, and it is expected that every society in the city will bring a large delegation.

Rev. W. G. Starr, of Broad-Street Methodist church, will deliver the address, subject: "My Idea of Heaven." Every league in the city will have some part in the programme. Centenary league will attend especially to the arrangements at the church. Others from that league will see that each society is assigned a special place in the house.

Mr. E. H. Clowes will sing a solo. The opening selection by Park-Place choir is being arranged by Mr. W. Reginald Walker. Miss Rosalie Pettit, of Asbury League will recite. Union-School League will send a chorus of one hundred voices.

A committee of four—two ladies and two gentlemen from each league who compose the reception committee for a "social hour" at the close of the service. The duty of this committee will be to introduce and shake hands with every one present. The Epworth Leaguers extend a hearty, a cordial invitation to the young people's societies of all denominations in the city to attend this service.

Judge Christian's Address.

At the meeting of R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans, to-night, Judge George L. Christian will deliver an address on the "Confederate Cause and Its Defenders."

The address is a splendid literary production and should be heard by all as it is a most valuable contribution to Confederate history. The public generally and the ladies especially are invited to attend. The camp meets promptly at 8 o'clock.

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